Recommendations for Financial Assistance Management Improvement:

$	Currently the Fair Market Rates (FMR=s) are published in the Federal Register in October. However, the new HOME rents are not published until February. We would like to recommend that all HUD programs use the same rental rates and make those rates available at the same point in time. We also recommend that HUD make the rental rates available on one web sight.

$	With the HUD IDIS system HUD recipients are required to input large amounts of data into the IDIS system regarding project demographics. The IDIS system also monitors the recipients draw and funding status. The IDIS system is supposed to be able to produce the annual performance reports (APR). However, we are still being required to complete and submit a paper APR with same information that exists in the IDIS system. We recommend that the paper APR be done away with and that HUD use the information already available in the IDIS system to complete the APR.

$	Our agency receives funding from the Department of Energy (DOE), Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). For the HHS and most of the DOE programs, the HHS Payment Management System (PMS) is used to draw funds. Some DOE programs required that a Form 269 and a Form 272 be sent to two different locations before payment is released. It would simplify matters if DOE would use the same payment system for all its programs.

For the HUD programs our office uses the mandatory IDIS system. This system requires that we enter draws at the project level. This is very time consuming and burdensome for our limited staff. We recommend that HUD allow the use of the HHS Payment management System in place of the IDIS system.

Drawing funds from the Federal government is a major and important part of grants management. Having multiple systems is confusing and burdensome. If one system could be used for all our Federal programs it would greatly streamline our grants management systems.

$	The HHS and DOE programs administered by our office use the electronic 272 system available from the DPM cash management website. Each program has different instructions and different screens to be completed. The HUD programs require that a paper copy of the 272 be submitted. Having different systems for doing the same report is confusing and burdensome. We recommend that all the Federal programs use the same electronic 272 reporting system.

$	Most of the Federal programs administered by our office require a SF269 form to report expenditures on a quarterly basis. Some programs do not require quarterly reporting but have other reporting requirements. We recommend that a standard expenditure report be used by all

Federal agencies. It would also be beneficial if that form could be completed via the internet.

$ All the Federal programs administered by our office have different application procedures and forms. It would greatly streamline the application process if a standard application form was used by all Federal agencies.

$ As part of the A-133 audit process, a Data Collection Form is submitted to the Federal Audit Clearinghouse regarding our Federal programs. Often the Federal agencies request directly from us a copy of the audit report rather than use the Federal Audit Clearinghouse. We recommend that the Federal agencies use the information contained in the Federal Audit Clearinghouse=s database.

$ Our office administers several different Federal programs from several different Federal agencies. Each Federal agency uses a different Notice of Grant Award. Some notices are confusing and hard to read. It would be great if all Federal agencies used the same format for the Notice of Grant Award.

$ Federal agencies often use their web site as an information resource for their grantees. This is a great concept, however, we often find that the Federal agencies don=t update their web pages on a regular basis. We recommend that the Federal agencies update their web pages regularly especially when there are rule changes.

$ A couple of the Federal agencies that we deal with have a regional office. We find that there is poor communication between the Washington DC headquarters and the regional offices. This leads to conflicting information and instructions. We recommend that the Federal agencies come up with a process to improve interagency communications between the national headquarters and the regional offices.

$ The state treasurer=s office receives ACH payments from many different Federal agencies destined for many different state agencies. The information on the wire transfers are often vague or general to the state. We would like to recommend that information such as the disbursing Federal agency and the intended recipient state agency be included on the wire transfer. This would also help facilitate management of the CMIA agreement.